



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

A. E. PORTER, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

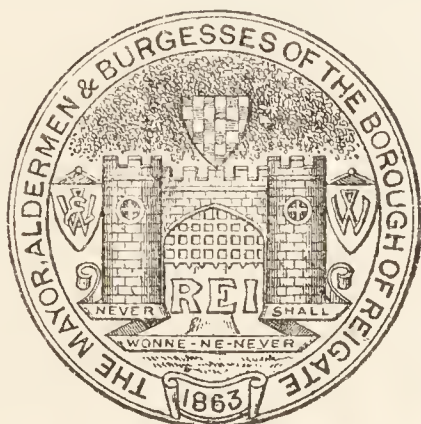
J. P. HUMPHERY, F.S.I.A.

1928.

REDHILL :

S C. JENNINGS AND SONS, LTD., PRINTERS.

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BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1928.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the Sanitary and Maternity and
Child Welfare Committees.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1928; it is the twenty-third of its series. I regret that ill-health prevented me from presenting the report for 1927.

During my six months' absence on leave Dr. Marsden acted as my deputy with marked efficiency, and I have to thank him and all the members of the Sanitary Department for the work they did on my behalf. I also have to thank the Borough Council for granting me leave of absence.

The report is prepared in accordance with Circular 939, dated 13th December, 1928, of the Ministry of Health, and I have endeavoured to follow its instructions with as little repetition as possible of facts contained in previous reports. It is issued two months later than usual, owing to the delay in receiving the estimate of the population from the Registrar-General.

Perhaps the most noteworthy development to be recorded during the year is the definite step which has been taken by the Council to deal with the disposal of house refuse. The dumping has, it is true, taken place at a spot remote from considerable

aggregates of population, but it is nevertheless an objectionable method of disposal, and a nuisance to those inhabitants who are unfortunate enough to live in the vicinity.

The completion of the sewage disposal works at The Clears removes a source of dispute which has arisen from time to time for something like twenty years.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. PORTER,

REIGATE.

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1929.

SECTION I.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

<i>Area</i> (Land and Inland Water)...	...	...	...	5,995 acres.
<i>Population</i> , Census 1921 (enumerated)	...	...	...	28,914
Do. ,, ,, (adjusted)	...	...	...	28,690
Do. (estimated by Registrar-General), 1928	...	...	...	29,450
<i>Number of inhabited houses</i> (1921)	...	...	...	6,052
,, ,, <i>families or separate occupiers</i> (1921)	...	...	...	6,825
<i>Rateable Value</i> (1928)	...	...	...	£251,718
<i>Assessable Value</i> (1928)	...	...	...	£238,188
<i>Sum represented by a Penny Rate</i>	...	...	...	£992

Social conditions : Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The Borough is essentially a residential area, and there are no occupations liable to influence the health of those engaged therein adversely. Railway and motor transport and motor engineering works employ a large number of the occupants. There are in addition a brewery, printing works, mineral water works, etc.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total..	M.	F.					
<i>Births</i>	{ Legitimate ...	396	207	189	}	Birth rate ...	...	...	14.1
	{ Illegitimate ...	20	9	11					
					Birth rate, 1927	...	...	13.5	
					Birth rate 5 years 1923-27			13.5	
		Total.	M.	F.					
<i>Deaths (nett)</i>	...	364	169	195	Death rate	...	...	12.4	
Do. 1927	...	364	...	...	Death rate 1927	...	...	12.4	
Do., 5 years, 1923-7...	...	337	...	...	Death rate 5 years, 1923-27			11.4	
<i>Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth.</i>									
					From Sepsis	...	1		
					From other causes	...	1		
<i>Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—</i>									
Legitimate, 27.8	Illegitimate, 200.0	Total		...	...	...	36.1		
		Total, 1927		...	...	...	42		
		Total, 5 years, 1923-27		...	...	...	43		
<i>Deaths from Measles (all ages)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	2		
<i>Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	7		
<i>Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil		

Population.

The Registrar-General estimates the population of the Borough at mid-year of 1928 at 29,450. His estimates between 1922 and 1927 have varied from 28,880 in 1926 to 28,430 in 1927, as compared with an enumerated population on June 19th, 1921, of 28,914.

I have pointed out in previous years that these estimates were too low, and I doubt if the estimate for 1928 is within some hundreds of the true figure, even leaving out of consideration the staff and inmates of the Foundling Hospital, who moved temporarily into Redhill after the Census. At the Census about one in every 27 of the population was enumerated in one or other of the various public institutions located in the Borough, and this fact may perhaps invalidate any method of estimation based on the number of persons on the Parliamentary voting lists, as compared with other towns where the populations in public institutions are relatively smaller.

Births.—The gross births registered in 1928 were 474, reduced to 416 nett, 216 being boys and 200 girls, as against 395 in 1927. Consequently, the birth-rate was 14.1 per 1,000 population, as compared with 13.5 in 1927 and a mean of 13.5 for the five years 1923–27. Illegitimate births formed 4.8 per cent. of the total, as compared with 2.7 in 1927 and 3.3 in 1926.

Deaths.—After deducting the deaths of “non-residents,” and adding those of Reigate persons who died elsewhere, there were 364 nett deaths, as compared with 364 in 1927, and 317 in 1926. The nett death rate on the population as estimated by the Registrar-General was 12.4 per 1,000, as compared with 12.4 in 1927, 10.8 in 1926 and a mean of 11.4 for the five years 1923–27. When adjusted for the age and sex distribution of the Borough population the nett death rate is reduced to a “standardised” death-rate of 10.2.

Deaths of persons aged 65 and upwards formed 59.3 per cent. of the total; 70 and upwards 49.8; 80 and upwards 19.8; and 90 and upwards 2.1. The first two figures are the highest ever recorded in the Borough, and are an indication partly of the saving of life at lower ages, and partly of the high average age of the population. There is little prospect of a diminution of the nett death-rate in the future, a progressive increase being more probable, whilst a standardised death-rate in the neighbourhood of 10 may be considered satisfactory.

The principal causes of death are shown in the subjoined table. There was an unusual mortality from whooping cough; other causes which somewhat exceeded the average of previous years being pneumonia and bronchitis. There were 50 deaths

ascribed to cancer, as against 49 in 1927 and 55 in 1926. This figure has not varied materially since 1920, but is much higher than it used to be prior to that year; the increase is no doubt partly due to the rise in the mean age of the population.

Influenza was credited with only one death, as against 27 in 1926. There were 14 deaths from violence other than suicide, the majority being from road accidents.

The death rates for the four quarters were 15.1, 10.3, 7.5, and 14.0 respectively.

The excess of births over deaths was 52. In 1927 it was 43 and in 1926, 49.

The causes of death were as under :—

					<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	...	1	1
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	1
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	4	3
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	1	...
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	14	2
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	1	2
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	13	37
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...	...
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	3
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	12	20
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	19	27
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	12	13
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	11	9
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	10	7
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	2
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	3	1
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	1	...
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	1
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	3	5
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	1
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	4	4
29	Suicide	...	...	...	3	...
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	7	7
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	48	47
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above) :—						
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
					169	195

Board, constituted in 1927. The hospital normally accommodates about 70 patients.

(2) Smallpox.

The County Council have an estate at Clandon, near Guildford, containing the nucleus of a smallpox hospital, capable of expansion should the occasion arise. Reigate Borough is one of the contributory districts.

B (1) Tuberculosis.

Patients are sent at the cost of the County Council to various sanatoria and hospitals situated in different parts of the country. The new County Council Sanatorium at Milford was opened during the year, and received a considerable number of patients from the Borough of Reigate.

(2) Maternity.

The Surrey County Nursing Association has a Maternity Home situated in Woodlands Road, Redhill, with accommodation for six patients. The Borough Council contribute towards the weekly maintenance charges in necessitous cases.

(3) Children.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum into the East Surrey Hospital, the fees payable by the Borough Council to be 1/6 a day for the infant alone, and 8/6 a day for infant and mother.

(4) Orthopaedic. An Orthopaedic Clinic has been opened at the East Surrey Hospital.

(5) Other.

The East Surrey Hospital is the general hospital for the Borough and neighbouring area, and provides accommodation for about 80 patients. The Council makes an annual contribution of five guineas.

Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the District.

There is no provision within the district for these classes, except at the Guardians' Institution.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases. A motor ambulance is maintained at the Isolation Hospital by the Joint Hospital Board.

(b) For non-infectious cases. The Council has a motor ambulance, in charge of the Police. The Borough of Reigate Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade also have two motor ambulances, which serve a large area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Borough Council's Health Centre is used for Maternity and Child Welfare and for School Clinics. It is situated in Brownlow Road, Redhill, and five rooms are set aside for the purpose. The infant consultations are held twice a week and a doctor is in attendance. Ante-natal clinics are held about once a month, as occasion requires.

A child welfare Clinic is also held once a week at the Constitutional Club, South Park, financed by a voluntary committee. There is no medical attendant. The Borough Council makes an annual contribution.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The County Council's Dispensary is situated off London Road, Redhill.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Provision is made at the East Surrey Hospital, with a subsidy from the County Council.

Day Nurseries, and Artificial Light Clinics.

There are none in the Borough.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

These consist of :—

Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Reigate Rural District Council) ; holds the Diploma in Public Health.

Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic ; part-time annual appointment.

Infant Mortality.—The nett deaths of infants under one year of age were 15, namely 9 males and 6 females, as against 17 in 1927, and 19 in 1926. The rate of infant mortality per 1,000 nett births was 36.1, as compared with 42 in 1927, and a mean of 43 for the five years 1923–1927. This low figure has only been equalled once (in 1921). The causes of death were:—Congenital debility and premature birth (3), whooping cough (4), inattention at birth (2), injury at birth (2), status lymphaticus, tuberculous meningitis, convulsions, and broncho-pneumonia (1 each). Six of the deaths occurred within a week of birth.

There were 4 deaths of illegitimate children, two from deliberate carelessness at birth, one from prematurity, and one from whooping cough. On the 20 registered illegitimate births this gives the high infant mortality of 200 per 1,000 births.

Statistics on infant mortality in the Borough go back some 30 or 40 years, and the year 1925 is the only one in that period when the number of deaths among infants has been so low; in 1917 and 1923 the deaths were 16. In my first annual report (for the year 1906) there were registered 50 deaths of infants, and the rate of infant mortality was 91 per 1,000 births. I remarked then that this figure was nearly 10 below the mean for the previous ten years.

Reference is made in Section VII to the measures taken in connection with the serious epidemic of whooping cough, which accounted for 4 deaths under the age of twelve months.

A feature of 1928 is the small number of deaths from prematurity. Twenty years ago it used to account for between 10 and 20 deaths annually. Ante-natal advice to and supervision of expectant mothers, both by private doctors and nurses, and at the Council's Clinic, are no doubt largely responsible for this result.

In view of the great differences between the populations estimated annually by the Registrar-General since the Census of 1921, I give below the birth and death rates since that year, calculated on the assumption that the estimated 1928 population is nearer the truth than that for any of the preceding years; that the "adjusted" population for 1921 is correct; and that the increase since 1921 has taken place uniformly over the period.

If, as I suspect, the actual population in 1928 is in excess of the estimate, the rates as calculated are also slightly in excess.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Birth-rate.</i>	<i>Nett Death-rate.</i>	<i>Standardised Death-rate.</i>
1922	14.9	11.5	9.4
1923	14.3	10.0	8.2
1924	13.4	11.6	9.5
1925	13.9	11.9	9.8
1926	12.5	10.8	8.8
1927	13.5	12.4	10.2
1928	14.1	12.4	10.2

Comparative vital statistics for 1928 are as follows :—

	<i>Birth-rate</i>	<i>Death-rate</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i>
England and Wales ...	16.7	11.7	65
156 Towns (1921 pop- ulations of 20,000— 50,000)	16.6	10.6	60
Reigate	14.1	12.4*	36.1

*This is the nett death rate. The "Standardised" rate was 10.2.

Causes of Sickness and Invalidity specially noteworthy during the year.

Conditions of occupation or environment having a prejudicial effect on health.

There is nothing noteworthy to be recorded under either of these headings.

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

A (1) Fever.

Patients suffering from scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever, etc., are isolated at the hospital of the Reigate Joint Hospital

Chief Sanitary Inspector (Certificate of Sanitary Institute).

Sanitary Inspector (Certificate of Sanitary Institute ; also Certificate for Meat Inspectors).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant.

Clerk.

Two Health Visitors ; one whole-time, one also School Nurse. Both have the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board.

Exchequer Grants are payable as regards the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health, the Medical Officer of the Clinic, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Sanitary Inspector, and the Health Visitors.

Professional Nursing in the Home for General and Infectious Diseases.

There are two private associations supplying trained nurses. The Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association, affiliated to the County N.A., has a staff of four " Queen's " nurses who are also midwives, in addition to the Matron. The Borough Council have an arrangement with the Association to undertake the nursing of those classes of illness which have been recognised for this purpose by the Ministry of Health, a definite payment being made per visit.

In South Park there is a separate Nursing Association affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

At the extreme South-Eastern portion of the Borough similar work is undertaken by the Salfords branch of the Horley Nursing Association.

Midwives.

There are now no midwives of the " bona fide " class practising in the Borough. There is one Registered Midwife engaged in private practice ; otherwise the whole of the midwifery is carried out by the staff of the Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association, and those of the South Park and Salfords Associations mentioned above. The Borough Council pays 5/- a case for each

confinement attended in a working class dwelling by the staff of the first named Association. Except in emergencies the work is carried out by two of the staff only.

There are, in addition, midwives attached to the County Nursing Association Maternity Home, and to the Guardians' Institution. Eleven midwives notified their intention to practise during 1928.

Legislation in Force.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	... adopted	1890
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890	...	„	1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	„	1892
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	...	„	1907
Public Health Act 1925 Parts II to V	...	„	1925
Byelaws with respect to New Streets & Buildings	...	„	1926
„ „ „ „ Slaughter-houses	...	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Offensive Trades	...	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Nuisances	...	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Cleansing of footways, etc.	„	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Common Lodging Houses...	„	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Good Rule and Government	„	„	1905

The Surrey County Council Act, 1925, contains provisions with respect to Ice Cream, for a portion of the administration of which the Borough Council are responsible.

An amendment to the bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, requiring all new sewers and drains to be laid on concrete, was confirmed during the year.

SECTION III.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The East Surrey Water Co. supply the whole of the Borough. Chemical and bacteriological analyses received during the year indicated that the water was of a high standard of purity.

Rivers and Streams.

The Thames Conservancy exercise supervision over the River Mole and its tributaries. No complaints as to pollution were received during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A description of the drainage of the Borough and sewage disposal was given in my Report for 1925.

During the year a tender amounting to £1,596 10s. 8d. was accepted for erecting purification works at "The Clears," and the work was completed in September. Thereby a troublesome condition of affairs, which has been before the Council from time to time for many years, has been remedied.

Closet Accommodation.

All dwellings on the sewerage system, and practically all those draining to cesspools, are provided with water closets. In some of the older premises these are hand-flushed, but the number is gradually decreasing as the result of inspection. During 1928 flushing apparatus were provided to 11 houses.

Scavenging.

Weekly removal of house refuse is aimed at by the Corporation. In most instances moveable bins are provided, but in some of the older properties fixed receptacles are found during inspection. During 1928 bins were provided at 28 premises.

The provision of a refuse destructor was again under the consideration of the Council during the year. In January the Borough Surveyor was instructed to prepare specifications of a refuse destructor plant, the estimated cost of which was £10,678, and the Council also resolved to purchase five electric vehicles to collect the refuse at an estimated cost of £2,275. In February application was made to the Ministry of Health to borrow sums of £10,678 and £2,500 for these respective purposes, but the application had not been granted by the end of the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

To avoid duplication, reference may be made to the report of the Sanitary Inspector following this report.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received, and no action was necessary in 1928.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

These include one tannery, one gut-scrapers, 13 slaughter-houses, one Knacker's Yard, 15 cowsheds, and two common lodging houses. One of the slaughter-houses is subject to an annual licence, the remainder are registered. There are no houses let in lodgings, nor underground sleeping rooms.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

Mosquitoes.

As in previous years, a watch was kept for the appearance of larvae in the principal known breeding-places, and these were sprayed. Further reference is made in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Destruction of Rats.—The appointment of a special officer to supervise the destruction of rats was continued throughout the year, and his efforts met with much success. "Rat Week" yielded a very large number of victims.

Flies.—Many complaints were received during the year of fly nuisance, especially in the neighbourhood of the Corporation Farm, where refuse is deposited. Attempts were made to abate the nuisance by means of sprays, but the householders considered the remedy nearly as bad as the flies. Little permanent improvement is likely to occur so long as dumping is continued.

Health Propaganda.

For many years advice on the preservation of health has been given to sections of the public by the Health Visitors and School Nurses; also by leaflets issued in connection with transmissible disease. During the year the Council decided to distribute the monthly magazine "Better Health," issued by the Central Council for Health Education.

Factories and Workshops.

Inspections made and defects found are shown in the subjoined tables prescribed by the Home Office:—

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	35	4	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	198	2	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	11	—	—
Total	244	6	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	3	3	—	—
Sanitary {insufficient ...	2	2	—	—
accommodation {unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
modation {not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	7	7		

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES (SECTION 108).

No action was necessary.

Schools.

There are several private boarding and day schools for boys and girls in the Borough, whose conditions are quite satisfactory. There are also Secondary Day Schools for boys and girls under the joint control of the Surrey County and the Borough Councils ; that for boys is the Reigate Grammar School.

The Public Elementary Schools are twelve in number, comprising twenty-one departments, nine of which are " provided," and twelve " non-provided." The former are quite satisfactory in construction, surroundings, and sanitary provision. The latter vary considerably, especially as regards lighting, ventilation, warming, and equipment generally. The public water supply for washing and drinking is available in all, and the sanitary accommodation is sufficient. Owing to the recent growth in population at South Park, following the erection of Council houses there, some additions to the sanitary accommodation at St. Luke's School may be needed.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, and one of the Health Visitors is also one of the School Nurses. There is complete co-ordination between the two departments in regard to the prevention of spread of infectious diseases. The Memorandum issued in 1925 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education jointly, is adhered to in its main details. A copy has been supplied to each of the Head Teachers.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 & 1929.

Rag flock is not manufactured in the Borough. In former years a few upholsterers made use of the material, but have discontinued to do so. No action during the year was required.

SECTION IV.

Housing.

Housing Statistics for the year 1928.

The Surveyor informs me that 125 new houses were completed in 1928, 97 of them being considered working class dwellings. Of these, 70 were erected by the Borough Council, 26 by private enterprise, and 1 by private enterprise assisted by a subsidy.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	178
(b) Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	75
(c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under (c) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	102

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	73
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 ...	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	33
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	17
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
C. Proceedings under Secs. 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1925	Nil
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

SECTION V.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

A classified list of producers and vendors of milk is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. In the Borough itself there are fifteen farms from which the public is supplied, the greater part being derived from farms outside, and principally from neighbouring parishes. The cows in the Borough are inspected periodically by the Veterinary Staff of the Surrey County Council. One tuberculous cow was found during the year. Another one was reported by a veterinary surgeon called in by the owner. Both were slaughtered, and found to be suffering from advanced tuberculosis.

Microscopical and Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

This year, in addition to the usual report on the microscopical examination and animal inoculation of each sample of milk, a report has been furnished by the Clinical Research Association on the bacterial content and the presence or absence of the bacillus coli. Arrangements were made for this further examination, following representations by certain retail dairymen, who had received adverse reports on the bacterial content of samples of their milk, when forwarded for examination at their own expense.

Special care is necessary in taking samples for a bacterial count, and valuable assistance has been given by the Matron of the East Surrey Hospital in arranging for the sampling outfits to be sterilized prior to each batch of samples being taken.

A copy of the report on each sample has been sent to the Sanitary Inspector of the district whence the supply was derived, and an extract, giving the bacterial count and presence or absence of the bacillus coli, has been forwarded to the retailer for his private information. If a report shows that there may be disease or illness amongst the cows, an extract of that report is sent to the County Medical Officer of Health concerned. Judging from the correspondence received, Sanitary Inspectors, to whom reports have been sent, have found them helpful. Retailers have been equally appreciative, and their interest in the cleanliness of the product they sell has been considerably increased.

County Medical Officers of Health have intimated the action which has been taken by Veterinary Officers, and after a suitable interval a repeat sample of the affected supply has been taken. During the year 115 samples (including 16 "repeat" samples) have been taken. They represented about 1,240 gallons, mainly of the morning milking, being taken from the churns before manipulation by the retailers. Forty-four of the samples were taken during the winter months, when the difficulty of excluding dirt at the time of milking is greatest. The samples examined in 1927 were 109.

The results of the examination are as follows:—

- (1) **Bacterial Count and B. Coli Test.**—Eighty samples were within the bacteriological standard required for Grade A milk, i.e., not more than 200,000 bacteria per c.c., nor any b. coli in 1/100 c.c. In the case of Grade A milk, however, the standard mentioned must be maintained right up to the time of delivery to the consumer, and taking into account the temperature of the milk at the time of sampling (the temperature of the milk was between 50° and 60° F in 36 instances, and 60° or over in 34) and the abnormally long spell of hot weather, it is probable that, after handling by the retailer in the dairy and in the course of delivery, the bacterial count of many of the samples would have increased to beyond the number allowed in Grade A milk. B. coli was present in 1/100th c.c. in 21 samples; in 1/1,000th c.c. in 9 samples, and in 1/10,000th c.c. in 5 samples.

28 samples had a bacterial content of below 30,000 per c.c.

12 ,, ,, ,, ,, more than 100,000 per c.c.

2 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 200,000 ,, ,,

The average bacterial count was 61,653 per c.c.

- (2) **Animal Inoculation for the tubercle bacillus.**—All the samples gave negative results, against two samples last year in which tubercle bacilli were found.
- (3) **Microscopical Examination.**—Six primary samples contained streptococci, as well as an excess of leucocytes, presumptive evidence of inflammation of the udder; last year 13 samples were found to contain these organisms. Repeat samples showed that the action taken by County Veterinary Officers had been successful in clearing the various supplies of the

organisms, with one exception, another repeat sample also proving positive. The dairyman taking this supply did not renew his contract at the end of September, so it was not possible to follow up by further sampling.

Pus or blood were not found in any samples.

Vegetable detritus was found in 22 primary samples as against 47 last year and 22 in 1926. This foreign substance indicates to some extent uncleanness in the milking process.

Leucocytes showed a slight excess in 16 and a decided excess in 3 samples, as against 28 and 8 in 1927, and 11 and 3 in 1926.

An excess of squamous cells was reported in 2 samples, as compared with 3 last year, and 4 in 1926. Unless associated with pus or blood, these cells have little significance.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Licences were granted to three retailers to sell " Certified " Milk, the farms being situated outside the Borough.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed and the inspection of premises where food is prepared.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

Details of samples submitted to the Council's Analyst are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

No special action was taken under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 & 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 & 1927, or the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927. The majority of the articles submitted to the Analyst, and recorded in the Sanitary Inspector's report, were examined for preservatives, but none were found.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—Samples for chemical analysis are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. E. Hinks, B.Sc., F.I.C., and samples of milk for bacteriological examination to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd. Bacteriological examination of other kinds of food has not been indicated during the year.

SECTION VI.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases.

(1) The Notifiable Diseases.

Table I shows the notifications received in 1928 ; “ Other Diseases ” include 4 cases of erysipelas, 2 each of encephalitis lethargica, malaria, and ophthalmia neonatorum, and 1 of small-pox.

Small-pox.

For the first time since 1912 a notification of small-pox was received, the patient being a “ casual ” at the Guardians’ Institution. He arrived there on the evening of May 11th, and was seen by the Medical Officer and myself on the morning of the 12th. He had been “ out of sorts ” on the 7th, and a rash appeared on the 9th. Between the 7th and 11th he had spent one night in the Casual Wards of five different Unions. It is remarkable that the rash had not been considered suspicious before he arrived in Reigate. It was by no means typical, and resembled that of chicken-pox in many respects, but I had him removed to the Small-pox Hospital on the 12th, and a definite diagnosis of small-pox was made in the course of a few days. There were a large number of other casualties on the night of May 11-12, all of whom refused re-vaccination. The routine steps for disseminating information were taken.

I was asked to see many patients with suspicious rashes during the year. All were cases of chicken-pox with the exception of an infant at the East Surrey Hospital, whose rash had many features resembling that of small-pox, and who had recently left an institution in which small-pox had broken out. The infant and his mother were kept under observation, first at the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital and afterwards at the Small-pox Hospital, Clandon. The rash was pronounced in due course to be not due to an infectious disease.

Throughout the year the following lists of particulars of cases of small-pox, with names and addresses of contacts, were received : Five from the County Medical Officer of Health,

Containing	...	...	...	105 names.
Three from Maidstone	...	...	...	135 „
Three „ Wandsworth	...	...	...	8 „
One „ Croydon...	...	...	...	45 „
„ „ East Preston	...	...	...	34 „
„ „ Horsham	...	...	...	9 „

TABLE I.

Ages.	Diphtheria.			Scarlet Fever.			Puerperal Fever.*			Enteric Fever.†			Pneumonia.			Other Diseases.		
	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospi.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospi.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospi.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospi.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospi.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospi.	Deaths
0-1																2		
1-2																		
2-3	1															1		
3-4																		
4-5				1														
5-10				14														
10-15	4			5			2											
15-20	4			9			1											
20-35	1			1						2								
35-45							6									1		
45-65							2									3		
over 65																3		
																1		
Total :	10	3	Nil	30	26	1	8	Nil	Nil	5	4	Nil	18	Nil	17	11	1	1

* Including Puerperal Pyrexia.

† Including typhoid and paratyphoid fever.

In addition there were the names of 20 contacts and patients reported individually from various other places.

Duplicates of the lists were made and sent to the Master of the Union, to the Head Constable, and to the proprietors of the Common Lodging Houses. Daily visits were paid to the Lodging Houses during the periods covered by the lists.

The Master of the Union reported that 39 contacts, whose names had appeared on the lists, had been admitted to the Casual Ward. They were all visited by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

Seventeen people, whose names appeared on the lists, were seen by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector at the Common Lodging Houses. One of the contacts was transferred to Clandon for observation, but did not contract the disease.

Most of these visits were paid by Dr. Marsden during my absence. He also made a point of paying visits to the Union to see the fresh admissions to the Casual Ward.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, were made.

Scarlet Fever.

Thirty cases, including 7 at the Philanthropic Farm School, were notified, and 26 were removed to hospital. Twenty private houses were involved. There was one death, a child admitted from the Foundling Hospital. No month of the year passed without one or more cases, but the majority of patients were notified during the last four months. The School Nurse found two cases in November among public elementary school children. The parents had not obtained medical advice, and, had the discoveries not been made, there is little doubt that the infection would have spread extensively.

Return Cases.

None occurred in private families. At the Philanthropic Farm School a boy was discharged from hospital on July 31st, and five cases occurred simultaneously on September 16th. This may have been a coincidence, but no obvious cause for this sudden outbreak could be suggested.

Concurrent Diphtheritic Infection.

Only three of the 26 patients admitted to hospital were found to be harbouring the diphtheria bacillus. The throat was the seat of infection in one instance, the nose in another, and both throat and nose in the third.

Diphtheria.

Of the 10 cases notified during the year, 7 occurred in the Royal Earlswood Institution, and one in an "Annexe" to one of the London General Hospitals. Consequently, there were only two cases in private dwellings during the year. The Institution cases were treated there, the remaining three patients being removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths.

There were only two children of school age among the contacts, and swabs from their throats and noses yielded negative results.

Three further patients were removed to hospital with the provisional diagnosis of diphtheria, pending a bacteriological examination, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Anti-diphtheritic serum was provided free of charge for curative purposes on three occasions, to the amount of 13,000 units.

The only instance of chronic infection was that of a boy of 6, who was removed to hospital with nasal diphtheria on June 21st, 1927. He was discharged on July 28th, but swabs gave positive bacteriological results until Feb. 3rd, 1928, a period of nearly eight months.

Enteric Fever.

One case of typhoid fever was notified, the patient being a boy at a residential preparatory school. He appears to have contracted the infection during the summer holidays. He was removed to a hospital in London.

Four cases of paratyphoid fever occurred, and were all removed to hospital, where they recovered. Three were inmates of one house; the first case, a woman of 22, appeared to have infected a younger brother and sister before the diagnosis could be made: the three cases occurred in July and August. The fourth case was also a woman of 25, who was attacked in April. The source of infection was not traced.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

A child of $2\frac{1}{2}$ was notified in January, and died a week later. A male of 64 was notified in March, and was treated at St. Thomas' Hospital. Recovery appears to have been complete.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.

Two cases of the former disease were notified. One was a patient at the East Surrey Hospital, to which she had been admitted from another area. The other was transferred to the Infirmary from a dwelling in Redhill.

Six cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, in one instance the rise of temperature being due to an attack of pneumonia.

Of the remaining five cases, two occurred in the Redhill Maternity Home, and one was removed to the Infirmary. From private dwellings one was transferred to the East Surrey Hospital and subsequently to Netherne Asylum, and one to the Infirmary, the other being treated at home. No assistance was requested by the certifying doctor in any instance. There were no deaths.

Pneumonia.

Eighteen notifications were received during the year, though, as 17 deaths were registered from the disease, it is clear that notification is by no means complete. There is no evidence that this incompleteness adversely affects the patients as regards medical attention, nursing assistance, or institutional treatment. Eighty-five visits were paid by the Health Visitors.

Malaria.

One notification concerned a patient for whom the disease was induced for therapeutic purposes in the Infirmary. The other related to a woman who had contracted the disease in the Malay States.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases were notified. One of moderate severity was transferred to the Infirmary, where treatment was entirely successful. The other was an extremely mild attack ending in recovery. Eight visits were paid by the Health Visitors.

Tuberculosis.

Table II includes all cases notified for the first time ; also 6 males and 4 females suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and one female from tuberculosis of another organ, who had moved to Reigate from other districts ; also one female who died of tuberculosis of various bones, and one male who died of tuberculosis of the lungs, in respect of neither of whom notifications had been received. The nature of the disease as regards the last named was only discovered at a Coroner's inquest, as the patient had not been under medical care.

The total pulmonary cases, 40, is considerably above the average figure for the previous five years (33), and, as 9 more cases were notified by the Tuberculosis Officer early in January of 1929, some of which were due for notification in 1928, the number might easily have been higher. Unless the disease is actually on the increase, the larger number of notifications may indicate greater completeness in this respect. The figures available for successive annual reports, however, are usually quite unreliable. The supervision and treatment of cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council, and I have to rely on information from this source as regards patients transferred from other districts, patients leaving for other districts, and patients considered as "cured," or wrongly diagnosed. This information, though more reliable than it was some years ago, is still far from complete. Each time my register has been compared with that kept at Kingston, or with the Dispensary register in Redhill, discrepancies have been manifest.

If accuracy of statistics is to be aimed at, it would be better if the primary notifications of cases were required to be sent to the County Council instead of to the County districts. I doubt if any practical administrative loss to the latter would result, provided that all relevant information were furnished by the County Council, and it would save much unnecessary duplication of clerical work,

After comparison with the Kingston records, the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis on my register on June 30th, 1928, was 112 (52 males, 60 females), and of non-pulmonary tuberculosis 43 (21 males, 22 females).

On December 31st, the number of pulmonary cases had risen to 117, that of other forms remaining the same.

For the reasons mentioned, however, it is doubtful whether these numbers accurately show the actual position of active cases on Dec. 31st, 1928.

The organs affected in the non-pulmonary cases were the glands of the neck (8), abdomen (3), and bones (1). The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was 2 out of 19.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Sec. 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TABLE II.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5			3	3				
10	1		1	3				
15		3						
20	3	5						
25	4	6		1				
35	3	3						
45	9			1				
55								
65 & upwards	3							
Totals	23	17	4	8	14	2	1	2

2. The Non-notifiable Diseases.

Whooping cough was very prevalent in March and April, and seven deaths occurred, four being infants under one year of age. The Health Visitors paid 456 visits, and nursing assistance was provided in nine instances. Full use was made of information obtained from the schools, and the School Nurse and Health Visitors gave suitable advice to the parents. Chicken-pox was prevalent in November especially, and mumps throughout the year. Only a few cases of measles were heard of; 18 children were excluded from school during the year; there were two deaths.

Rabies.

I was asked in July to see a boy who had been bitten by a dog. The dog was killed, but there was no evidence of rabies.

Bacteriological Work.

Up to July specimens for bacteriological examination from cases of suspected diphtheria and tuberculosis were examined by the Medical Officer of Health. After this date the work was transferred to the "Counties Public Health Laboratories" in London.

During the year 41 specimens from cases of suspected diphtheria were examined with only one positive result. Five swabs from contacts gave negative results. Fourteen swabs from convalescent patients, after return from hospital, yielded 4 positive and 10 negative results.

Eight specimens of sputum were examined, only one containing the tubercle bacillus.

One sample of blood gave a positive re-action to the Paratyphoid "B." bacillus.

"Schick" and "Dick" tests for diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively were not employed during the year.

Disinfection.

The disinfection of textile articles is carried out at the Corporation's station, where facilities are also available for the cleansing of verminous persons. These facilities were not made use of in 1928.

The disinfection of houses and other premises is carried out by one of the Sanitary Inspector's Staff. Particulars of the work done in 1928 are given in his report.

SECTION VII.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Health Centre.

Except during the month of August, and at Easter and Christmas, consultations were held each Tuesday and Thursday during the year, a doctor being in attendance each day. On the 87 days when the consultations took place the attendances of infants amounted to 3,751 as against 4,768 in 1927. The number of individual infants attending was 466 as against 405 in 1927 and 413 in 1926; of the 3,751 attendances 2,387 were those of infants below the age of twelve months.

There were 345 attendances of 55 individual expectant mothers at the infant consultations.

There are needlework classes, and a dental club at the Centre. At the needlework classes 261 attendances were made by 31 mothers. These classes are held on alternate Mondays, and "Health Talks" are given by the Health Visitor. Questions are set, which the mothers answer at home, and the written answers are corrected and criticised at the next class.

A "minor ailments" clinic is held in the mornings for dealing with cases of impetigo, sores, etc., needing dressings, occurring in children under 5, in conjunction with the corresponding clinic of the School Medical Service. Sixty-seven attendances were made during the year.

Antenatal Clinic.

During the year twelve sessions were held, at which 56 individual expectant mothers attended. The total attendances were 94. The corresponding figures in 1927 were 51 and 82 respectively. Forty-eight expectant mothers attended for the first time. These Clinics were begun in 1923, the figures for that year being 25 individual mothers and 36 attendances.

Domiciliary Visits.

Two hundred and ninety-four primary, and 2,303 subsequent visits were paid by the Health Visitors to infants under the age of twelve months, and 1,517 visits to infants between the ages of 1 and 5. Seventy-two primary, and 144 subsequent visits were paid to expectant mothers during the year. There were 598 visits of a miscellaneous character, in addition to 23 cases of measles, 441 to cases of whooping-cough, 85 to cases of pneumonia, 69 to cases of chicken pox, 7 to cases of puerperal fever, or puerperal pyrexia, 8 to cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, and 2 to cases of mumps.

South Park Weighing Centre.

The Centre was open on 46 occasions, 1,446 attendances being made by individual infants, as against 717 in 1927. The number of individual infants attending was 104.

Nurse Banks, who acts as Health Visitor in this parish, paid 31 primary, and 221 subsequent visits to infants under the age of 12 months; 307 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5;

39 primary, and 73 subsequent visits to expectant mothers. Other visits were 15 to cases of whooping-cough, 2 to cases of measles, 4 to cases of chicken pox, and 18 to cases of mumps. Domiciliary visits of all kinds were 710, as compared with 577 in 1927.

The Centre is managed by a Voluntary Committee, and their area includes a small portion of the adjoining parishes of Reigate Rural District. The Corporation contribute £15 a year towards their expenses, and in recognition of the useful domiciliary work carried out by Nurse Banks.

The population of this parish has increased materially in the last year or two, owing to the erection of cottages by the Council. The Committee found it necessary to hold a Clinic once a week instead of once a fortnight, beginning on Feb. 1st.

Midwifery Provision.

The Council paid the agreed subsidy in connection with 73 midwifery and 110 maternity nursing cases.

Nursing.

During the first half of the year whooping cough was very prevalent, and the Health Visitors had a large number of infants under supervision. On their advice the staff of the District Nursing Association were asked to nurse nine infants suffering from pneumonia, and they paid in all 93 visits.

Dental Treatment.

The collection of subscriptions towards extractions and provision of dentures is managed by the voluntary workers through a provident club at the Health Centre. The Council contributed towards the cost in five instances.

In addition, the Voluntary Committee assist out of their funds mothers belonging to the Club whose fees are £1 or less and who require fillings or a few extractions only. The scale of assistance is :—

2d. in the shilling for a charge up to 10/- for mothers.

3d. „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ £1 „ „

2d. „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ 10/- „ children under 5

4d. „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ £1 „ „ „

Assistance out of these funds was given in respect of one mother and five infants during the year.

Maternity Home.

There was only a moderate demand for accommodation at the Surrey County Nursing Association's Home. The Borough Council agreed to contribute to the expenses of maintenance in three instances.

Provision of Milk.

This is undertaken to a limited extent, and only in necessitous cases, by the Voluntary Committee. A number of mothers were so provided.

Birth Notification.

Of the 474 births (gross), 461 were duly notified, or 97.2 per cent. Doctors were responsible for 152 notifications, doctors and nurses for 116, midwives or nurses for 193.

Among the 13 unnotified births 4 occurred in private nursing homes, two in the East Surrey Hospital, and 1 in a large residence. Two of the mothers came into the Borough from outside districts, and the births may have been notified in those areas. The six unnotified births in smaller houses were attended by as many different doctors.

Still Births.

Fourteen notifications were received, 5 being males. They were derived from doctors in 9 instances, and from doctors and nurses in 4 instances, and 1 was unnotified.

So far as could be ascertained, the causes were in one case fright, in another severe kidney disease, in another mal-presentation, in another heavy lifting, in another placenta praevia, and in another malformation of the infant. In the last instance the mother is said to have been delicate, but to have indulged freely in pillion-riding.

Maternity Homes.

The inspection of homes registered under the Surrey County Council Act, 1925, was formerly delegated to the Borough Council. Five premises are on the Register, of which three are private nursing homes, one the Surrey County Nursing Association Home, the fourth being a cottage, where a mother is occasionally received for her confinement.

No infringement of the Act or Bye-laws occurred. In future these Homes will be under the supervision of the County Council.

Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925.

Administration of Section 41 of this Act, so far as it refers to orphans under the age of 5, was delegated to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. No action was necessary during the year.

The Rhondda Shield Essay.

Several mothers entered for this Competition. Prizes were given from the Voluntary Workers' Fund to the writers of the three best essays.

Competitions.

In October various competitions were held at the Infant Welfare Centre, which proved interesting and instructive, prizes being given by the members of the Voluntary Workers Committee.

The popularity of the work at the Centre, and the favourable results obtained, are largely due to the devoted and continuous attention given by the ladies who are good enough to serve as Voluntary Workers.

Accommodation at the Health Centre.

In two respects the Centre is lacking in accommodation. The waiting-room is too small for the numbers of mothers and infants attending on Tuesdays and Thursdays; also, the rooms are so fully occupied by the Infant Welfare and School Medical Services that a third infant clinic in the week, though desirable, cannot be arranged. A joint Committee representing the two services discussed the subject towards the end of the year. It is unlikely that any existing building can be found, which is suitably situated and sufficiently commodious for the purpose. The question of building special premises was considered, but no conclusion was arrived at.

Maternal Mortality.

In October the Ministry of Health issued a form of enquiry into maternal deaths, drawn up by a special committee instituted for the purpose. The County Council called a conference of Clerks

and Medical Officers of Local Authorities having the administration of maternity and child welfare, to discuss whether the investigations should be carried out locally, or by a Medical Officer of the County Council.

The meeting was in favour of the enquiries being carried out locally, especially in view of the pending changes of functions of County Councils and County Districts, following the passage of the Local Government Bill.

In Reigate a maternal death in 1928 occurred in the first quarter of the year from post partum haemorrhage, before the form of enquiry had been issued. In August the death of a Reigate woman occurred in Catford from sepsis following abortion. Consequently, no necessity for an enquiry of this nature arose during the year.

Infant Clinic for the St. John's District.

There are a number of mothers in this area who do not at present attend the Centre as regularly as could be desired. It was thought that a Clinic held fortnightly in the district itself would be of service, but suitable premises could not be found.

Maternity Nursing by Untrained Women.

While there are, as noted in Section II, no untrained midwives practising as such in the Borough, there are a few women who attend confinements as nurses, and who are able to maintain quite an appreciable clientele in opposition to the now adequate supply of fully-trained nurses. There appears to be no doubt that they successfully prejudice some of their clients against the official organisations, but it is exceedingly doubtful whether the mothers receive suitable advice, either before or after the birth has taken place.

One noteworthy fact is that, although doctors have been engaged for every confinement, the proportion of cases in which they arrive after the baby has been born is large. Unfortunately there appears to be no remedy for this unsatisfactory state of affairs, which will presumably continue until these particular women become too old to continue their work.

The following is an extract from the Annual Report of the Committee responsible for the maternity and child welfare work in South Park, the period covered being from Oct. 1st, 1927 to

Dec. 31st, 1928. The income, including £13 15s. 3d. brought forward, amounted to £132 5s. 3d., and the expenditure to £73 11s. 1d.

“ The Centre was open on 52 occasions, 1629 attendances being made by 104 children. Nurse Banks, who acts as Health Visitor in this part of the Borough, paid 332 visits to infants under 1 year (37 being first visits), and 349 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. Also 46 primary and 132 subsequent visits to expectant mothers.

“ Forty-eight new children have attended the Centre. Eleven have started school, nine have left South Park, nine have ceased attending. Seventy-five are still attending.

“ *Clothing Club*.—There are 20 members. Payments received from them amount to £23 8s. 10d. Withdrawals by members have amounted to £25 11s. 10s. The sum of £1 16s. 8d. (received from tea money) has been paid in bonuses (1d. in the shilling). Mr. Knight of Reigate, also allows a discount of 1d. in the shilling to members. Balance in hand £11 18s. 3d.

“ *The Clothing Guild* in connection with the Child Welfare Centre continues its useful work by supplying suitable articles of clothing for children's wear, also wool at reasonable prices for knitted garments.

“ As a result of our co-operation with the Camden Town Working Guild (thanks to Mrs. Haywood), we have received £50 from that Guild, during the period Oct. 1st, 1927 to Dec. 31st, 1928—an invaluable addition to our funds.

“ **Samaritan Fund**.—Thanks to this fund the Committee have been able to give a little timely help in a few necessitous cases to the extent of £3 6s. 0d. There is a balance in hand of £2 8s. 9d.”

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1928.

Sanitary Department,
Municipal Buildings,
REIGATE.

April 16th, 1929.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

MRS. POWELL AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith my Thirty-second Annual Report, and in doing so again desire to express my appreciation of the uniform kindness and consideration I have received at your hands.

I again desire to express my deep indebtedness to the Medical Officer of Health, for his help, and also to express my sincere appreciation of the loyal and painstaking work of my Staff, who have cheerfully carried out a considerable amount of work after the usual office hours and on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

I also have to acknowledge with appreciation the kind co-operation of the other officials and of Mr. T. Kyle (Food and Drugs Inspector, Surrey County Council) who has gone to considerable trouble on many occasions in assisting me in tracing adulterated milk to farms outside my district.

Mr. R. H. Thompson, the Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has on many occasions given me help, which I desire to acknowledge with appreciation.

My thanks are also due to the Matron of the East Surrey Hospital for her kindness in arranging for the sterilizing of the outfits used for taking samples of milk for bacteriological examination.

I am, Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. P. HUMPHERY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Infectious Illness.

At 5 houses invaded by infectious illness the laundry work was not done on the premises. The persons who had been doing the laundry work were immediately notified, and not allowed to receive any more until disinfection had been carried out.

Where cases have been treated at home, the premises have been frequently visited to ensure of isolation being practised, and each week, where it has been desirable, the laundry work has been steeped in disinfectants by one of the staff before being sent to be washed; 457 articles have been dealt with in this way.

The flushing of drains of infected premises (which during the year numbered 66) is also undertaken by the Department, so that thorough cleansing has been ensured, which is impossible when disinfectants are given to the tenants.

Notices have been issued to the School Medical Officer and the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools, informing them of all infected houses, and requesting them to exclude children from such until further notified. After disinfection is completed, and a suitable interval has elapsed, they have been advised thereof. If the members of the family are found to be engaged in any business bringing them into close contact with a number of people or foodstuffs, their employers are at once notified, and every precaution taken at once to stop, through contact, the spread of the disease.

Of the 141 rooms disinfected, 39 were in consequence of Consumption, 9 of Diphtheria, 48 of Scarlet Fever, 6 of Typhoid Fever, 10 of Smallpox (including rooms at the East Surrey Hospital, the Common Lodging House, and Guardians' Institution), and 29 of miscellaneous diseases. Disinfection was also carried out at 14 Public Institutions.

Bedding, clothing, etc., that requires disinfection by steam or special fumigation, is removed by the Staff, under my supervision, to the Disinfecting Station. When mattresses and palliasses have to be treated, all the leather tufts are taken off and destroyed, and new tufts put on before the articles are returned to their respective owners.

Four hundred and fifty-six visits have been paid to houses in connection with infectious illness.

During the year under review 2,571 articles, in 175 lots, were removed for disinfection, and the following is a summary of them :—

Beds	...	...	...	...	37
Mattresses	...	...	...	...	247
Palliasses	...	...	...	...	18
Bolsters	...	...	...	...	262
Pillows	...	...	...	...	591
Sheets	...	...	...	...	124
Blankets	...	...	...	...	405
Quilts	...	...	...	...	55
Counterpanes	...	...	...	...	53
Carpets	...	...	...	...	10
Rugs	...	...	...	...	31
Cushions	...	...	...	...	67
Toilet Covers	...	...	...	...	46
Towels	...	...	...	...	25
Wearing Apparel	...	...	...	...	405
Curtains	...	...	...	...	20
Mats	...	...	...	...	48
Miscellaneous pieces	...	...	...	...	127
					<hr/> 2,571 <hr/>

In addition to the above the following disinfection has also been carried out :—

Borough Police & St. John Ambulances ... 5 times.
Two School Classrooms, and 9 Dormitories.
Two Hospital Wards.
Sixteen Cubicles at Guardians' Institution.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

I have again to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the butchers in carrying out the above Regulations. The satisfactory work reported last year has been continued.

The following are the details of the animals slaughtered and the action taken :—

Three Cows, 879 Steers and Heifers, 447 Calves, 2,771 Sheep, 732 Lambs and 4,475 Pigs. Total, 9,307.

The following animals were surrendered and destroyed :—

11 Pigs	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
2 „	...	...	...	Swine Erysipelas.
1 Pig	...	...	...	Acute Peritonitis and Jaundice.
1 Bullock	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
2 Heifers	...	...	...	„

In addition, the following livers and internal organs, etc., were also surrendered and destroyed :—

Ox livers	...	...	...	...	34
„ heads...	...	...	...	...	6
„ lungs	...	...	...	...	5
„ tongues	...	...	...	...	4
Sheeps' livers	...	...	...	...	128
Calf's liver	...	...	...	...	1
„ pluck	...	...	...	...	1
Pigs' livers	...	...	...	...	5
„ heads	...	...	...	...	23
„ plucks	...	...	...	...	14
Pig's lungs	...	...	...	...	1
„ loin...	...	...	...	...	1

Almost all the inspections above referred to were made after the recognised office hours, as the slaughtering in this Borough is generally conducted in the late afternoon and evening.

There are 13 slaughterhouses, 12 of which are registered and one licensed.

The vehicles used by the butchers are kept exclusively for the purpose of carrying meat, and are closed. Generally speaking they receive attention with regard to cleanliness.

There are no meat stalls within the Borough.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

During the year two cows have been notified as being affected with tuberculosis. The animals were slaughtered and post-mortem examinations were made, with the result that in each case “advanced tuberculosis” was discovered. In both instances the carcasses were destroyed.

One cowshed, 7 stalls, 1 lair and 1 slaughterhouse from which the animals were removed were disinfected by the Disinfecting Officer.

Food Supply.

Under Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1925, 132 inspections have been made of the shops where food supplies are stored and sold.

The Register now compiled includes the following businesses :

Grocers, etc.	...	...	...	...	67
Butchers, etc.	...	...	...	...	32
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	24
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	...	...	...	...	18
Confectioners (where ice cream is sold)	...	...	...	...	26
Restaurants, Cafes, etc. (includes 14 ice cream premises)	...	...	...	...	22

Generally speaking, the food is stored and handled under cleanly conditions, and in several cases alterations have been carried out in order to improve conditions, such as cleansing of storage accommodation, provision of lavatory basins for the use of employees, and improvements in drainage.

Tradesmen show willingness to comply with requirements which may be made under this Section ; but unfortunately the powers given are somewhat restricted, as they do not apply to premises which are controlled by the Factory & Workshop Act.

Power has now been given under Section 79 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1925, for regulating the manufacture of ice-cream, and during the year under review 37 premises have been inspected.

The following articles of food have been surrendered and destroyed (these figures are exclusive of those mentioned under the " Meat Regulations ") :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	756 lbs.
Ox Kidneys	...	...	...	...	19 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	55 lbs.
Cherries	...	...	(2 baskets)	...	16 lbs.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.

Additional work has been entailed by the provisions of an Order made under the above Act, viz., The Merchandise Marks (Imported Goods) No. 3 Order, 1928, which requires traders to indicate on exposure for sale the origin of fresh apples and honey. Copies of the Order were sent to all traders concerned, and no breaches of the Order have been observed.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

(Ed. Hinks, Esq., B.SC., F.I.C., Public Analyst.)

FOODSTUFFS.	SAMPLES TAKEN.				Total.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
	First quarter.	Second quarter.	Third quarter.	Fourth quarter.			
Sponge Cakes	7	...	...	...	7	7	...
Margarine ...	6	7	...	...	13	13	...
Milk	13	6	6	16	41	37	4
Cream ... ..	...	13	...	...	13	13	...
Butter ... ..	...	6	...	...	6	6	...
Selfrising Flour ...	...	...	6	...	6	6	...
Shredded Suet ...	...	...	4	...	4	4	...
Sausages ... ..	...	...	10	...	10	10	...
Mince ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
Sugar ... ..	...	...	...	6	6	6	...
Lard ... ..	...	...	...	5	5	5	...
TOTAL ...	26	32	27	27	112	108	4

Of the four samples of milk adversely reported upon one was reported to contain not less than 39 per cent. of added water, and to contain also added sucrose. The sample was also deficient in milk fat to the extent of 41 per cent.—this deficiency being almost entirely accounted for by the presence of 39 per cent. of added water and the added sucrose. Legal proceedings were instituted, but the case was adjourned sine die, owing to the Vendor being unable to appear at the Court, as he was in hospital suffering from Lysol poisoning.

The second and third samples (taken in transit) were reported to contain 4 per cent. of added water each—the third also being deficient in milk solids to the extent of 4 per cent. Both samples came from the same supply. At the Public Analyst's suggestion the Vendor of these samples was asked for an explanation, and, on same being received, he was cautioned.

In the fourth sample the deficiency in milk fat corresponded to the abstraction of 2 per cent. of the milk fat. In this instance also the Vendor was asked for an explanation, and was subsequently cautioned.

Four of the milk samples taken during the year were reported by the Public Analyst as being "Possibly Genuine"—the deficiency in each case being so slight, the Vendors were cautioned.

Bakehouses.

During the year 1 new retail bakehouse was entered on the Register, and one was closed, bringing the total to 26, 11 being termed workshops, *i.e.*, without mechanical power and 15 factories, *i.e.*, with mechanical power. All the premises have been cleansed every six months.

The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

In accordance with the above Order, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1926, a Register is now kept of all persons carrying on the trade of cowkeeper or dairyman, and of the farms and the premises used as dairies. An additional Register is kept of retail purveyors of milk, as required by the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.

There are on the former Register 41 entries, 15 being cow-keepers.

The Register of retail purveyors contains 41 entries, 10 of which are of persons whose premises are outside the Borough.

Several occupiers of general shops unsuitable for registration were found to be retailing milk, and after being notified of the requirements of the Order the practice was discontinued.

During the taking of samples under the Food & Drugs Acts, it was discovered that a Vendor was selling milk within the Borough without being registered. He was cautioned and subsequently became registered.

Three dairymen are licensed to sell "certified milk" in bottles.

The milk supply of the Borough, apart from that derived from the cowsheds within, comes from the following places:—

Balcombe, Blechingley, Buckland, Charlwood, Crawley, Dover's Green, Edenbridge, Gadbrook, Godstone, Guildford, Horley, Leigh, Lingfield, Lowfield Heath, Mierstham, Newdigate, Nutfield, Outwood and Tonbridge.

Considerable amendments have been carried out at the various premises in order to bring them into line with the Order, more particular attention being given to the methods of handling milk than to structural alterations.

Mosquito Control.

An endeavour was made during the past year to check the hatching of mosquitoes in stagnant pools and low-lying land in the Borough by spraying with petroleum. This work necessitated a considerable number of visits to the different places, as the hatching of the larvae varies somewhat with atmospheric conditions.

A considerable amount of spraying was carried out, but the results, I regret to say, were not as satisfactory as one would wish. The work done in April gave very good results, but from observations that were kept it would appear that in the latter part of the Summer larvae were hatching out at all periods, so that the work done during that time was limited on account of the expense involved.

I propose this year to make further efforts in the latter part of the Summer, but I am afraid that unless a somewhat costly campaign is put on foot the desired end will not be reached. There is also the difficulty of carrying out spraying on private property, particularly round cattle troughs and the like, which form splendid breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Knacker's Yard.

There is a licenced Knacker's Yard at Whitebushes, which has been frequently visited and found to be in a satisfactory state.

Gut Scraping.

There is one Gut Scraping business—the premises adjoin the Knacker's Yard. No complaints have arisen.

Verminous Houses.

Thirty-one rooms infested with vermin have been treated with Solution "D," this being a spraying preparation for the destruction of vermin.

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.

The Order of the Board of Agriculture, issued in February, 1912, directing the disinfection of all vehicles removing swine from the markets, has not yet been revoked.

The Order necessitates attendance at the Redhill Market each day until the last pig has been removed, and during the year 1934 vehicles have been dealt with under the Order.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

In the Medical Officer of Health's Report will be found particulars of 115 samples of Milk, taken for bacteriological examination to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd.

As will be seen in the report of the Medical Officer of Health, we have extended our operations in this direction. The taking of samples entailed a considerable amount of work that does not appear on the surface, and particular care involving a special sampling outfit for each sample. The majority were taken between 6 and 8 a.m., on the arrival of the milk in the Borough, and, when obtained, packed in an ice-box and carried immediately to the laboratory in London.

Factory and Workshop Act.

Owing to the changes in occupation that are continually taking place, the keeping of a complete Register of Workshops is a difficult matter.

One hundred and seven visits of inspection were made, and ten workrooms measured. Plans of the workrooms have been made, and the cubic contents ascertained. Cards are supplied to hang in the rooms, giving the number of persons that may be employed during the day and overtime. Generally speaking, the premises have been found well kept.

In one instance a workshop was found, soon after the establishment of a fruit bottling business, in unsuitable premises. After notice had been served on the occupier to provide proper drainage and lavatory and w.c. accommodation for the employees, the business was closed down.

Two lists of outworkers were received affecting two outworkers, *i.e.*, persons who receive from the occupier of any factory or workshop work to be done in their own homes.

The following list gives the number of the various business premises in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act, and in which there are approximately 1,650 persons employed:—

<i>Business.</i>	<i>Factory.</i>	<i>Workshop.</i>	<i>Workplace.</i>
Art Leather Worker		1	
Art Needleworker		1	
Bakers	16	10	
Book Binder	1		
Boot Makers and Repairers ...	4	15	
Breweries	2		
Brick Makers, etc.	3	2	1
Carpenters, Cabinet-makers, etc.	5	32	
China Glass Rivetter		1	
Coach Builders	2	3	
Corn Merchant	1		
Cycle Makers	3	9	
Dairyman	2		
Distemper Manufacturer		1	
Dressmakers and Milliners ...		27	
Engineers	2		
Firewood Works	2	1	
Gas Works	1		
Jam and Essence Makers	1		
Laundries	2	10	
Mantle Makers		1	
Metal Workers	1		
Mineral Water Manufacturers ...	1	1	
Motor Car Repairers	4	3	
Photographers		6	
Pianoforte Repairers		2	
Picture Frame Makers		2	
Plumbers		10	
Polish Powder Manufacturers ...	1		
Printers	11	2	
Restaurants			18
Saddlers		5	
Sand Pit			2
Seedsman	1		
Sheet Metal Workers		3	
Shoeing and General Smiths ...		6	
Stables			7
Stonemasons	1	2	
Sugar Boiler	2	1	
Tailors		12	
Tanner	1		
Tennis Racquet Manufacturer ...		1	
Timber Merchants	4		
Tin Plate Workers		1	
Umbrella Makers		1	
Undertakers		3	
Upholsterers		8	
Vulcanising and Cycle Repair ...		1	
Watchmakers		8	
Wheelwrights		2	
TOTALS ...	74	194	28

Summary of Complaints received. Total, 153.

No.	Purport.	Action taken.
24	Insanitary condition of premises ...	Investigated and Notices issued.
9	House Drainage ...	Ditto.
47	Non-removal of house refuse ...	Referred to Borough Surveyor.
8	Foul accumulations ...	Nuisance removed.
64	Miscellaneous ...	Investigated, and, where possible, action taken.
1	Smells emanating from Sewers ...	Referred to Borough Surveyor.

Abatement of Nuisances, etc.

The following summary gives some particulars of the amount of work in connection with nuisances and defects dealt with. It is, however, impossible to tabulate a number of minor works of improvement that have been effected, or the number of visits that were made in supervising the carrying out of these improvements :—

Drains examined and tested	...	...	202
Drains relaid	...	...	19
Interceptors fixed	...	...	6
Drain ventilation improved	...	...	12
New W.C. apparatus provided	...	...	14
W.C. Apparatus repaired	...	...	4
New soil and ventilating pipes fixed	...	...	7
Waste pipes trapped or repaired	...	...	39
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	28
Back yards paved or repaired	...	...	6
Sinks renewed or repaired	...	...	12
W.C. flushing cisterns fixed or repaired	...	...	30
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	9
Leaky roofs repaired	...	...	18
Eaves gutters and stack-pipes repaired	...	...	16

Sculleries paved	...	...	...	2
Ventilation and Light of Rooms improved				1
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	95
Ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	11
Accumulations removed		...	...	13
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	21
Overcrowding suppressed		...	...	4
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired			...	5
Fireplaces or coppers repaired			...	8
Window-frames or sash-cords repaired			...	3
Floors repaired	...	...	...	14
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	3
Slop sinks installed	...	...	...	2
Nuisances—animals improperly kept			...	6
Van dweller	...	...	...	1

Notices Issued.

	No. issued.	Com- plied with.	Out- stand- ing.
(a) Preliminary Notices	153	101	52
(b) Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875	7	—	7
(c) „ 91, „ „ „ „ „ ...	39	10	29
	199	111	88

(a) Calling attention to conditions found on inspection.

(b) To provide “sufficient” closets and ashpits.

(c) To abate nuisances of various sorts.

Public Mortuary.

During the year there have been 22 bodies deposited in the Public Mortuary for the following purposes:—

Post-Mortem examination and Inquest 19, Post-Mortem 1, Inquest 1, and Convenience 1.

Stable Premises.

During the year the Register of Stable Premises has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. There are now 80 such premises on the Register, and generally speaking they have been well kept. Two hundred and forty-three visits of inspection have been paid during the year.

Systematic Inspection of Houses.

The particulars obtained and recorded of each house inspected contains *inter alia* a block plan (to scale) of the house and drainage system, aspect, soil, ventilation round premises, size of each room, window area in relation to floor space, ventilation of rooms, number of occupants, conditions as to cleanliness, details of all sanitary fittings, state of walls and roof, dampness, conditions of yard and outbuildings, result of the test applied to the drains, and particulars of works of amendment ordered and carried out.

As soon as inspection is complete, a preliminary notice is sent to the owner calling his attention to the defects discovered. If this is disregarded, or the requirements named therein are only partly complied with, the circumstances are reported to the Sanitary Committee, and a statutory notice is issued. If this is not complied with, the facts are again reported to the Committee, and legal proceedings ordered.

An enormous amount of time is absorbed in interviewing owners and persuading them to carry out the work without resort to legal proceedings, and in addition, rapid progress is very considerably hindered by the majority of the small houses being on combined systems of drainage, and the consequent difficulty of getting the various owners to agree to do the work.

The following tables give some particulars of the conditions found on inspection under the systematic inspection. The houses referred to are working-class dwellings, and are situate at Allingham Road, Birkheads Road, Church Road, Eastnor Road, Tower Street, and Warwick Road.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	75
Rooms measured	...	...	...	426
Rooms without fireplaces	...	...	...	19
Houses occupied by one family	...	...	...	53
„ „ „ two families	...	...	...	12
„ „ „ one family and lodgers	...	...	...	10

Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	Nil
Houses supplied direct from public main	...	...	...	75
„ „ „ „ wells	...	...	...	Nil
Improper water closet	...	...	...	12
Ventilation of Water Closets	{	Good	...	56
		Fair	...	15
		Bad	...	4
Light of Water Closets	{	Good	...	50
		Fair	...	21
		Bad	...	4
Defective sinks	...	...	...	19
Untrapped waste pipes	...	...	...	36
Dampness by ...	{	Roof	...	15
		Windows	...	—
		Dampcourse	...	3
		Drift	...	10
Yard Paving and Drainage	{	Good	...	49
		Fair	...	18
		Bad	...	8
Outbuildings (<i>i.e.</i> , sheds, etc. in back yards)				58
Improper dustbins	...	...	...	30
Defective drains	...	...	...	9
Air circulation round houses	{	Good	...	74
		Fair	...	1
		Bad	...	Nil
Defective eaves, gutters and stack pipes	...	...	...	7
Cleanliness of premises for which owner is responsible	{	Good	...	66
		Fair	...	9
		Bad	...	—
Cleanliness of premises for which occupier is responsible	{	Good	...	72
		Fair	...	3
		Bad	...	—

The above figures include re-inspections of houses inspected under the Housing Regulations.

Miscellaneous.

There were 178 dwelling houses inspected. Seventy-five of these were inspected under the systematic inspection of houses, the remainder having been partially inspected for some special reason.

Office Work.

The following is a summary of part of the work ; it is, however, impossible to tabulate all that is done.

Calls and communications received and entered	3,516
General Correspondence	642
Communications to S.M.O. (<i>re</i> infectious illness)	52
Communications to S.A.O.	15
Communications to Head Teachers of Sunday	
Schools (<i>re</i> infectious illness)	16
Letters to Bakers (<i>re</i> cleansing)	44
Reports and letters sent to Medical Officer of	
Health	143
Report to Chairman (<i>re</i> infectious illness) ...	37
Reports made to Committee	11
Dust Complaints received and forwarded to	
Borough Surveyor	53
Notices issued	120
Entries made in Nuisance Journal ...	37
Entries made in Nuisance Register ...	140
Entries made in Food and Drugs Register	112
Entries made in Cowsheds and Milkshops Register	7
Scarlet Fever Precautions sent	15
Booklets <i>re</i> Feeding of Infants despatched	371
Circulars <i>re</i> Infantile Diarrhoea despatched	461
Circulars <i>re</i> Fly Danger despatched ...	2,810
Reports and Letters sent to Health Visitor	51
Notices <i>re</i> cleansing of Cowsheds sent ...	32

Legal Proceedings.

No.	Nature of Offence.	Date of Hearing	Result.
1	Selling Milk containing not less than 30% of added water and added sucrose	Apl. 26th, 1928.	Adjourned "sine die." Vendor unable to appear—in Hospital suffering from Lysol poisoning.